MARVEL
034
STAR WARS
AARON
LARROCA
DELGADO

THE THIRTEEN CRATES

It is a time of turmoil for the galaxy as the evil galactic Empire rules with an iron fist. However, for those daring and skilled enough to defy and evade Imperial forces, there is potential for profit.

Lando Calrissian, smuggler turned galactic entrepreneur, makes his mark on the universe as a disreputable businessman moving goods and skirting along the edges of Imperial law. When he's approached by skilled bounty hunter and fellow smuggler, Sana Starros, she offers him a deal he can't refuse.

Together Sana and Lando embark on a gamble as they attempt to move one of the biggest scores of their lives–or die trying....

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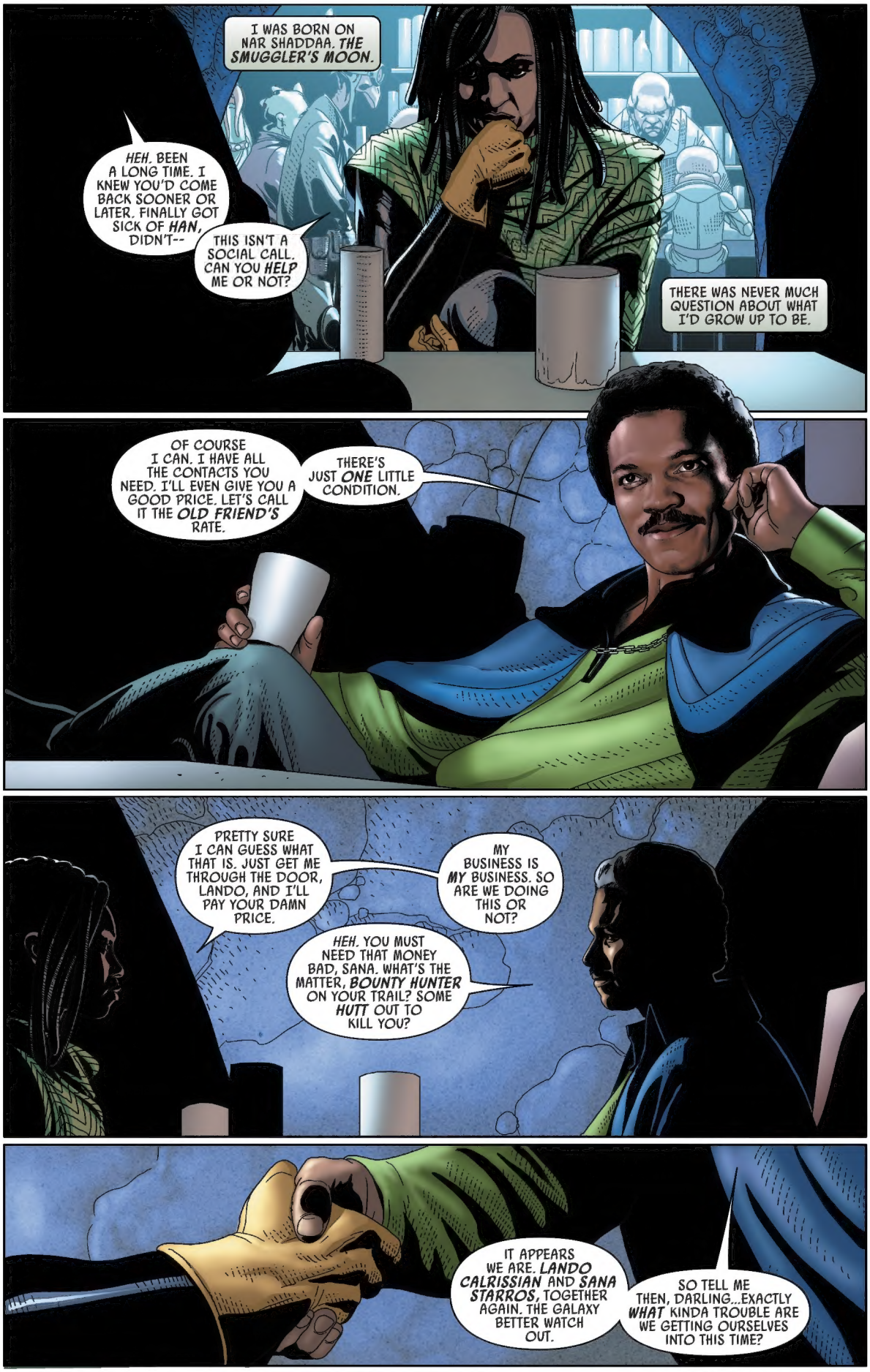
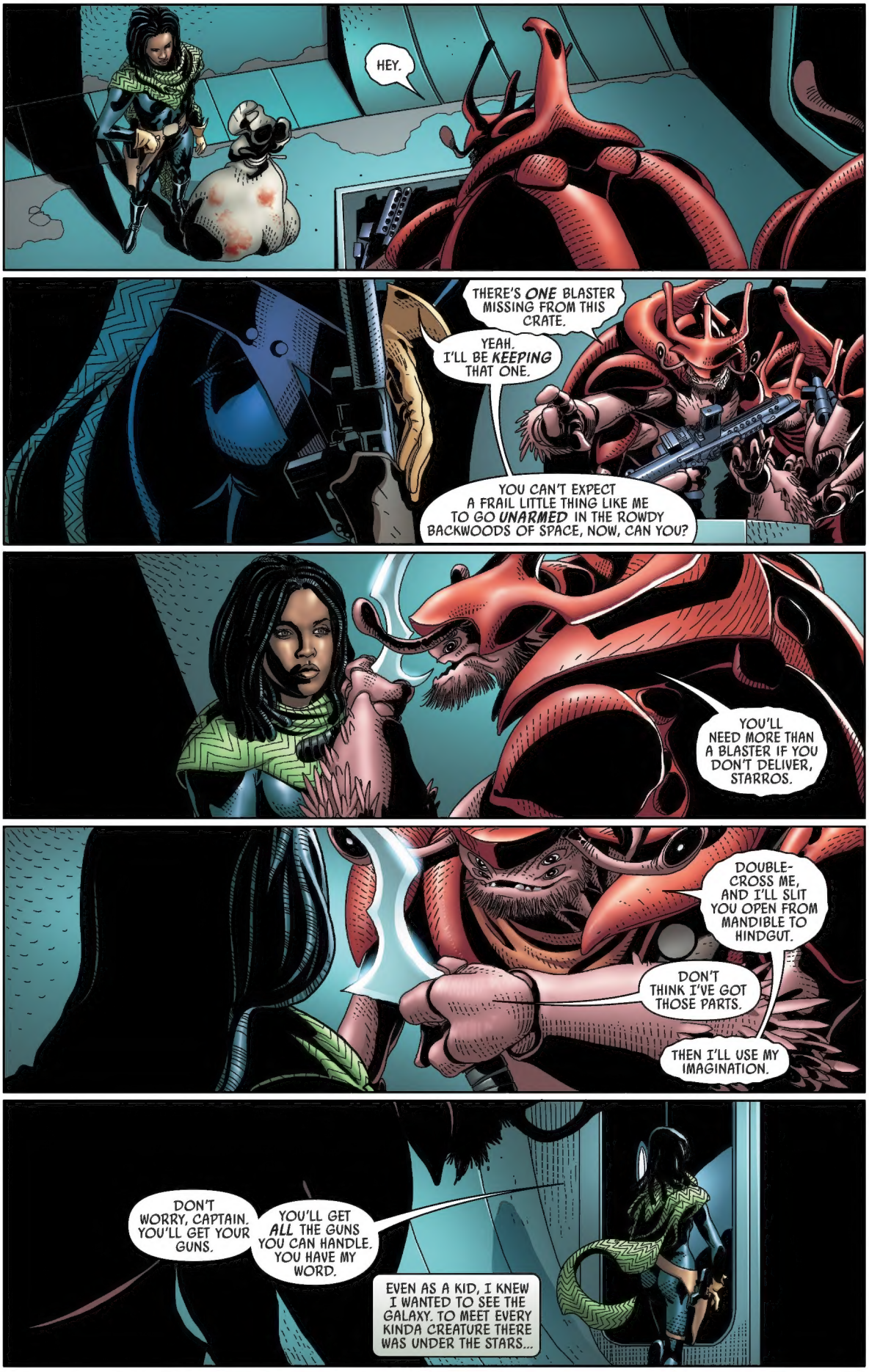

I WAS BORN ON NAR SHADDAA. THE SMUGGLER'S MOON.
HEH. BEEN A LONG TIME. I KNEW YOU'D COME BACK SOONER OR LATER. FINALLY GOT SICK OF HAN, DIDN'T--
THIS ISN'T A SOCIAL CALL. CAN YOU HELP ME OR NOT?
THERE WAS NEVER MUCH QUESTION ABOUT WHAT I'D GROW UP TO BE.
OF COURSE I CAN. I HAVE ALL THE CONTACTS YOU NEED. I'LL EVEN GIVE YOU A GOOD PRICE. LET'S CALL IT THE OLD FRIEND'S RATE.
THERE'S JUST ONE LITTLE CONDITION.
PRETTY SURE I CAN GUESS WHAT THAT IS. JUST GET ME THROUGH THE DOOR, LANDO, AND I'LL PAY YOUR DAMN PRICE.
MY BUSINESS IS MY BUSINESS. SO ARE WE DOING THIS OR NOT?
HEH. YOU MUST NEED THAT MONEY BAD, SANA. WHAT'S THE MATTER, BOUNTY HUNTER ON YOUR TRAIL? SOME HUTT OUT TO KILL YOU?
IT APPEARS WE ARE. LANDO CALRISSIAN AND SANA STARROS, TOGETHER AGAIN. THE GALAXY BETTER WATCH OUT.
SO TELL ME THEN, DARLING...EXACTLY WHAT KINDA TROUBLE ARE WE GETTING OURSELVES INTO THIS TIME?

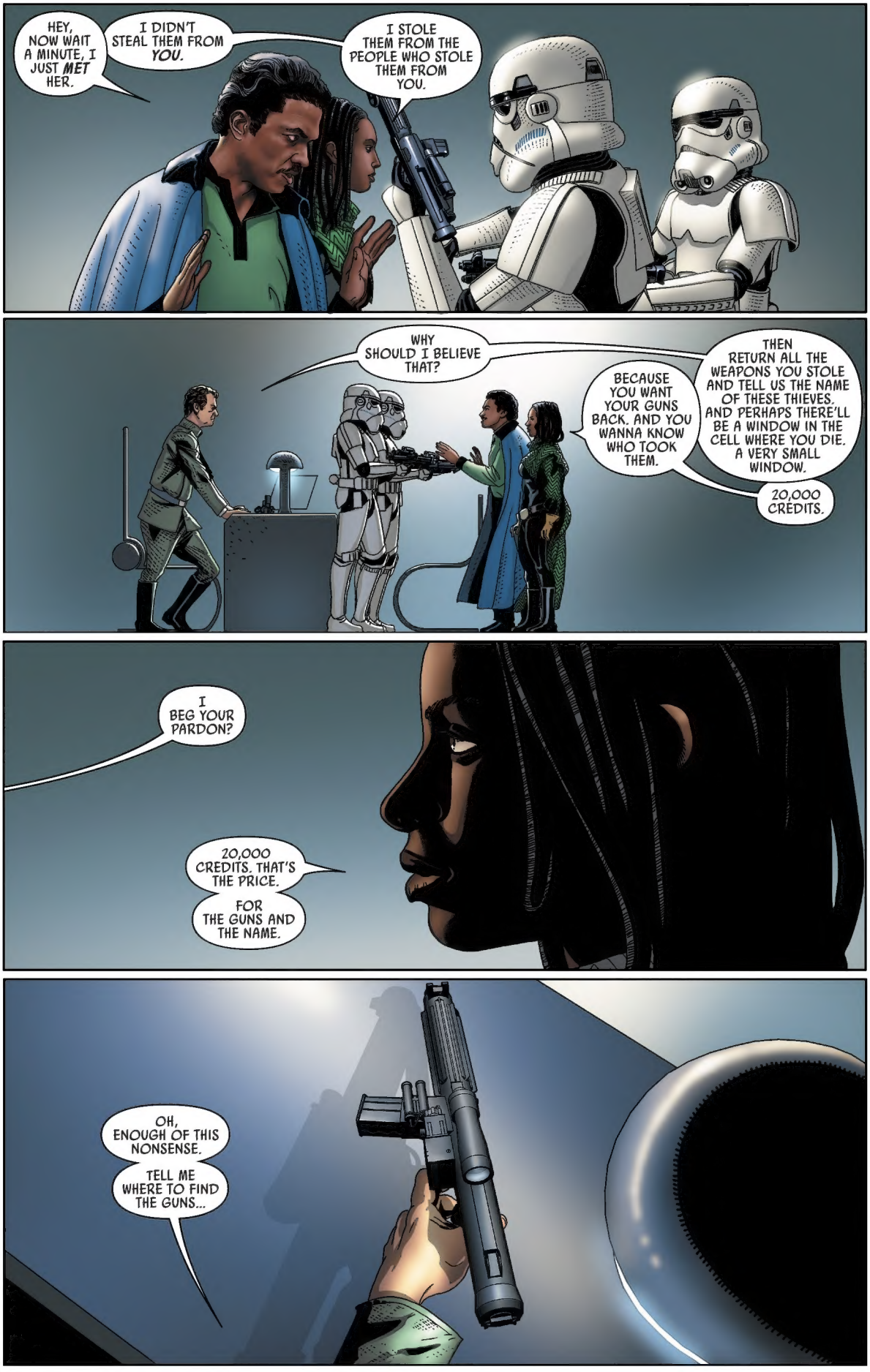
Two Days Earlier...
"BLASTERS.
"ALL YOU'LL EVER NEED. SEE FOR YOURSELF."
I'VE GOT ANOTHER TWELVE CRATES EXACTLY LIKE THIS ONE. ALL BRAND NEW, IMPERIAL ISSUE.
AND HOW EXACTLY DID YOU COME BY THESE, CAPTAIN STARROS?
DOES IT MATTER?
I MAY BE JUST A POOR, DUMB PIRATE IN THE OUTER RIM, BUT I STILL HEAR THINGS.
AN IMPERIAL CONVOY WAS LOST A FEW DAYS AGO IN THE ARKANIS SECTOR. A CONVOY CARRYING WEAPONS JUST LIKE THESE.
SOMETHING TELLS ME, LITTLE SMUGGLER, THAT YOU AND YOUR GUNS ARE MORE TROUBLE THAN THEY'RE WORTH.
I GET IT. YOU'RE SCARED OF THE EMPIRE.
I'LL TAKE MY BUSINESS ELSEWHERE.

HOW MUCH?
FOR ALL THIRTEEN CRATES.
5,000 CREDITS.
DONE. PAY THE--
AS A DOWN PAYMENT.
YOU KEEP THIS CRATE. TRY 'EM OUT. SEE IF YOU LIKE 'EM. YOU WILL.
THEN YOU'LL PAY ME ANOTHER 15,000 WHEN I DELIVER THE REST.
5,000 IS TOO MUCH FOR ONE CRATE.
LIKE I SAID, IT'S A DOWN PAYMENT ON THE REST.
WHY WOULD I PAY YOU FOR SOMETHING I DON'T YET HAVE? DO I LOOK STUPID TO YOU? AM I A GAMORREAN?
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY BUYER IN THE OUTER RIM. IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD MY PRICE...
HEH. OH, WE CAN AFFORD IT.
PAY THIS WOMAN. WITH THE CREDITS WE RAIDED FROM MYKAPO.
THE BLOODY ONES.

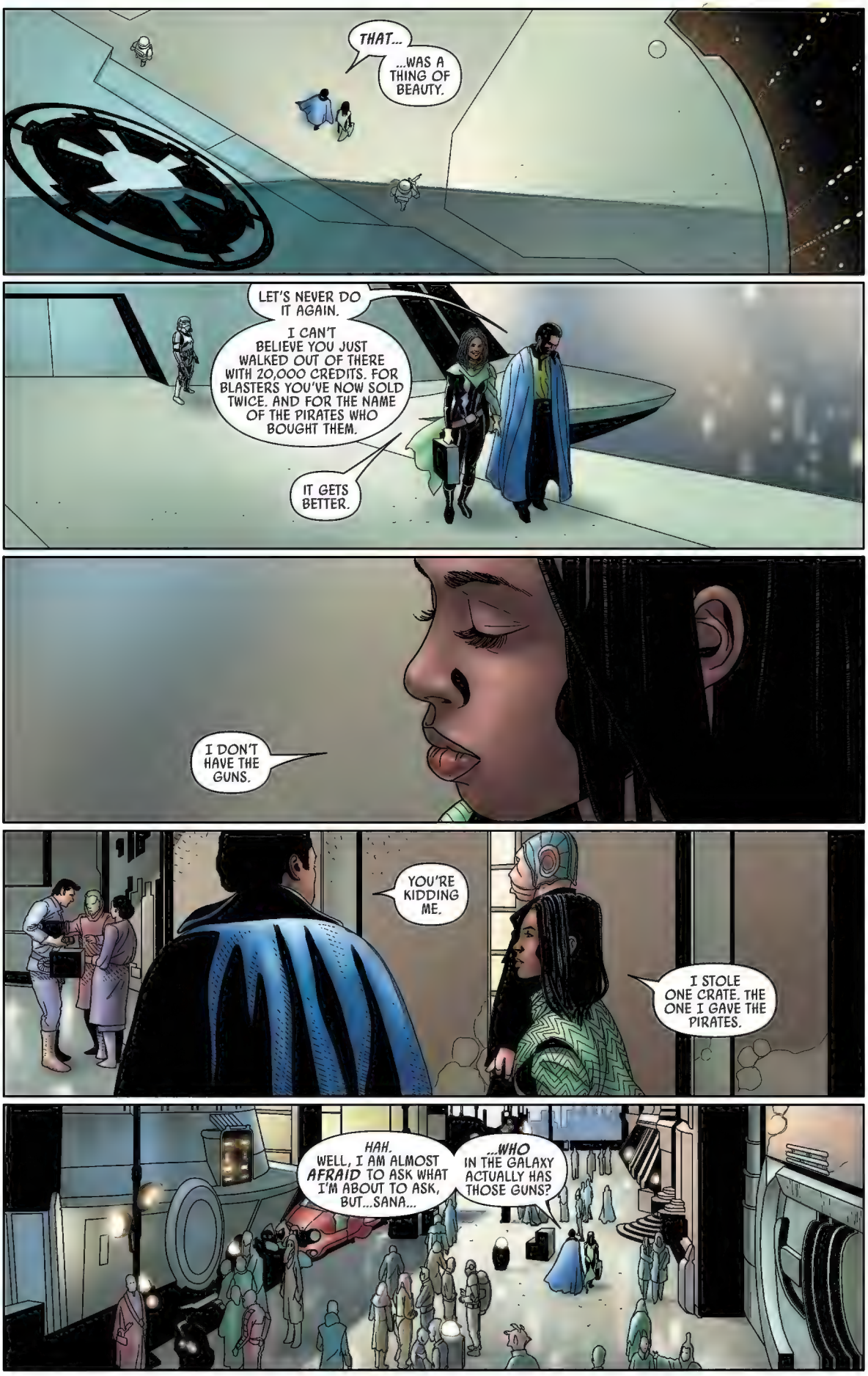

HEY.
THERE'S ONE BLASTER MISSING FROM THIS CRATE.
YEAH. I'LL BE KEEPING THAT ONE.
YOU CAN'T EXPECT A FRAIL LITTLE THING LIKE ME TO GO UNARMED IN THE ROWDY BACKWOODS OF SPACE, NOW, CAN YOU?
YOU'LL NEED MORE THAN A BLASTER IF YOU DON'T DELIVER, STARROS.
DOUBLE-CROSS ME, AND I'LL SLIT YOU OPEN FROM MANDIBLE TO HINDGUT.
DON'T THINK I'VE GOT THOSE PARTS.
THEN I'LL USE MY IMAGINATION.
DON'T WORRY, CAPTAIN. YOU'LL GET YOUR GUNS.
YOU'LL GET ALL THE GUNS YOU CAN HANDLE. YOU HAVE MY WORD.
EVEN AS A KID, I KNEW I WANTED TO SEE THE GALAXY. TO MEET EVERY KINDA CREATURE THERE WAS UNDER THE STARS...

Coruscant.
...AND MAKE A CREDIT OR TWO OFF EVERY LAST DAMN ONE A' THEM.
HEH. SAME OLD SANA.
YOU SELL THE GUNS TO THE PIRATES, THEN BEFORE YOU DELIVER, YOU RAT THEM OUT TO THE EMPIRE FOR A REWARD AND KEEP THE GUNS FOR YOURSELF.
IT'S SO CLEVER, I WISH I'D THOUGHT OF IT.
OF COURSE, I'M PRACTICALLY LEGITIMATE THESE DAYS MYSELF.
OF COURSE.
THOUGH YOU ARE TAKING QUITE A CHANCE BY TRIFLING WITH THESE KRAWG PIRATES. I HEAR THEY JUST WIPED OUT A WHOLE TOWN OF REBEL SYMPATHIZERS ON MYKAPO.
YEAH. HEARD THAT, TOO.
TAKING ANOTHER BIG CHANCE IN COMING HERE.
SO ARE YOU.
MY BUSINESS CONNECTIONS GOT YOU THIS MEETING, SANA. BUT IF YOU THINK FOR A SECOND I'M STEPPING ASIDE BEFORE I GET WHAT YOU OWE ME, YOU'RE CRAZIER THAN EVEN THOSE REBEL ALLIANCE WACKOS.
THEN JUST SMILE AND LOOK PRETTY, LANDO...

"...AND LET ME DO THE TALKING."
THAT'S ONE OF THE BLASTERS THAT WENT MISSING IN THE ARKANIS SYSTEM. YOU CAN CHECK THE SERIAL NUMBERS.
AND WHERE, MAY I ASK, DID YOU GET THIS? FOUND IT FLOATING AIMLESSLY IN SPACE, I SUPPOSE.
NO. I STOLE IT.
YOU WHAT?
YOU WHAT?
AND NOW I'M HERE TO SELL IT BACK TO YOU.
YOU ARE QUITE THE ODD THIEF. BUT I THANK YOU FOR SAVING US THE TROUBLE OF HUNTING YOU DOWN.
ARREST THEM.


HEY, NOW WAIT A MINUTE, I JUST MET HER.
I DIDN'T STEAL THEM FROM YOU.
I STOLE THEM FROM THE PEOPLE WHO STOLE THEM FROM YOU.
WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE THAT?
BECAUSE YOU WANT YOUR GUNS BACK. AND YOU WANNA KNOW WHO TOOK THEM.
THEN RETURN ALL THE WEAPONS YOU STOLE AND TELL US THE NAME OF THESE THIEVES. AND PERHAPS THERE'LL BE A WINDOW IN THE CELL WHERE YOU DIE. A VERY SMALL WINDOW.
20,000 CREDITS.
I BEG YOUR PARDON?
20,000 CREDITS. THAT'S THE PRICE.
FOR THE GUNS AND THE NAME.
OH, ENOUGH OF THIS NONSENSE.
TELL ME WHERE TO FIND THE GUNS...

...OR YOUR FRIEND DIES.
WHOA NOW. LET'S NOT--
HE'S NOT MY FRIEND. SHOOT HIM AND I WON'T SO MUCH AS BLINK.
HEY, POINT THAT THING AT HER AND I'LL TELL YOU ALL YOU--
AND THEN YOU CAN KILL ME TOO, IF YOU LIKE. BUT YOU STILL WON'T HAVE YOUR GUNS.
AND YOU KNOW WHO WILL?
THE SCUM WHO STOLE THEM.
AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THOSE BLASTERS START POPPING UP ALL OVER THE OUTER RIM? WHAT WILL FOLKS SAY ABOUT THE BIG BAD EMPIRE THEN?
YOU'VE ALREADY LOST A DEATH STAR. HOW MUCH MORE CAN YOU AFFORD TO LOSE?
YOU...ARE A THOROUGHLY INSANE WOMAN.
NO. JUST A BUSINESS-WOMAN.
20,000 CREDITS. EITHER PAY ME OR PULL THE TRIGGER.
IT'S UP TO YOU.


THAT...
...WAS A THING OF BEAUTY.
LET'S NEVER DO IT AGAIN.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU JUST WALKED OUT OF THERE WITH 20,000 CREDITS. FOR BLASTERS YOU'VE NOW SOLD TWICE. AND FOR THE NAME OF THE PIRATES WHO BOUGHT THEM.
IT GETS BETTER.
I DON'T HAVE THE GUNS.
YOU'RE KIDDING ME.
I STOLE ONE CRATE. THE ONE I GAVE THE PIRATES.
HAH. WELL, I AM ALMOST AFRAID TO ASK WHAT I'M ABOUT TO ASK, BUT...SANA...
...WHO IN THE GALAXY ACTUALLY HAS THOSE GUNS?

THE GREAT JABBA WELCOMES YOU TO TATOOINE, THOUGH HE IS SOMEWHAT CONFUSED BY YOUR REQUEST.
YOU SAY YOU WISH TO PURCHASE BLASTERS. JABBA DOES NOT DEAL IN SUCH WEAPONS. THAT IS NOT ALLOWED BY IMPERIAL LAW.
I'M NOT HERE TO BUY BLASTERS. EVEN THOUGH I KNOW YOU'VE GOT TWELVE CRATES OF THEM BACK THERE SOMEWHERE.
HOW VERY INTERESTING THAT YOU WOULD SAY TWELVE.
THAT'S BECAUSE I KNOW WHO STOLE THE THIRTEENTH.

HO HO. DUMPA WERMO.
THE GREAT JABBA THINKS PERHAPS YOU KNOW THIS, BECAUSE YOU ARE THE ONE WHO STOLE IT.
YOU WERE, AFTER ALL, ONCE THE WIFE OF THE COWARD HAN SOLO, WERE YOU NOT?
HEH. WIFE. I ALMOST FORGOT THAT STORY.
NEVER HIS WIFE. NOT EVEN HIS FRIEND.
BELIEVE ME, IF I KNEW WHERE SOLO WAS RIGHT NOW, I'D GIVE HIM TO YOU FOR NOTHING.
BUT FOR THE NAME OF THE THIEVES, I WANT 20,000 CREDITS.
AND WE ARE SUPPOSED TO, WHAT EXACTLY? TAKE A SMUGGLER'S WORD FOR THIS?
NO. YOU CAN CHECK IT OUT YOURSELF.
THE KRAWG PIRATES OF THE MYKAPO SYSTEM STOLE YOUR GUNS.

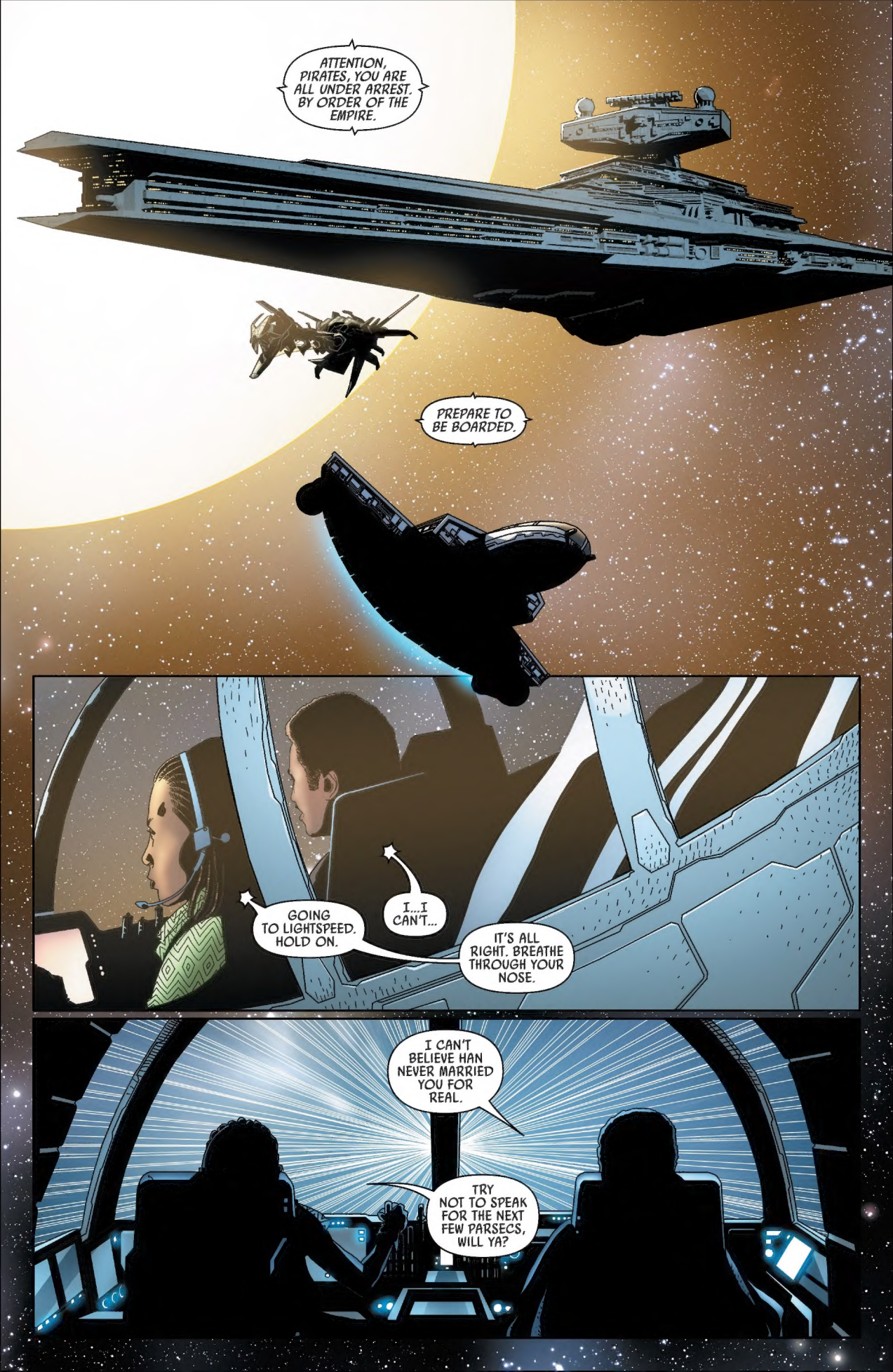
AND RIGHT NOW, THEY'RE FLOATING AROUND THE--
LIAR.
YOU DOUBLE-CROSSING--
GUUGH!
UH. NICE SHOT.
I WAS... JUST ABOUT TO DO THAT MYSELF.

A KRAWG PIRATE, ARMED WITH ONE OF THE STOLEN BLASTERS.
IT WOULD APPEAR YOU WERE RIGHT, CAPTAIN STARROS.
20,000 CREDITS.
I WON'T CHARGE YOU ANYTHING EXTRA FOR KILLING THIS ONE, JABBA.
I ASSUME YOU CAN HANDLE THE REST.
HO HO!
"REMIND ME NEVER TO PLAY SABACC AGAINST YOU, LADY."

THAT'S 45,000 CREDITS YOU'VE MADE IN THREE DAYS. ALL BECAUSE OF BLASTERS YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE.
HOW'D JABBA GET THEM?
STORY IS THAT LIFE SUPPORT SHORTED OUT ON THE IMPERIAL SHIP. IT FLOATED INTO TATOOINE'S ORBIT WITH EVERYBODY DEAD INSIDE.
JABBA'S PEOPLE FOUND IT FIRST.
HEH. AND THE CRATE YOU SOLD THE PIRATES? LET ME GUESS...
...YOU STOLE IT FROM JABBA?
YEAH. BUT THAT'S NOT ALL.
WHILE YOU AND THE HUTT WERE DRINKING AND OGLING DANCING GIRLS...

...I WAS STEALING THE REST.
YOU WERE... I...
I THINK I'M GONNA BE SICK.
NOT ON MY SHIP.
I'LL DROP YOU OFF WHEREVER YOU WANT, LANDO. YOUR PART IN THIS IS DONE.
NO, NOT UNTIL I GET MY FINDER'S FEE, LADY.
AND THEN THERE'S THE OTHER THING. YOU PROMISED ME A--
WHOA! WHAT...

...IT'S THE KRAWG!
YOU REMEMBER THEM? THE MURDEROUS PIRATES YOU'VE NOW DOUBLE- AND TRIPLE-CROSSED!
STARROS! WE'RE WISE TO YOUR GAME, GIRL!
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THOSE GUNS, YOU LYING HUMAN! AND YOU NEVER DID!
I DIDN'T, BUT I DO NOW. AND IF YOU BLAST US, YOU'LL NEVER SEE--
YOU KNOW WHAT? I DON'T EVEN CARE ANYMORE. I'M GONNA BLOW YOU OUTTA THE...
WHAT THE...


ATTENTION, PIRATES, YOU ARE ALL UNDER ARREST. BY ORDER OF THE EMPIRE.
PREPARE TO BE BOARDED.
GOING TO LIGHTSPEED. HOLD ON.
I...I CAN'T...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. BREATHE THROUGH YOUR NOSE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HAN NEVER MARRIED YOU FOR REAL.
TRY NOT TO SPEAK FOR THE NEXT FEW PARSECS, WILL YA?

Nar Shaddaa.
"THIS...ISN'T AT ALL WHAT I HAD IN MIND."
YOU'RE NOT HOLDING UP YOUR END OF THE DEAL, SANA.
YOU SAID YOU WANTED A DATE. WITH DINNER.
WELL, HERE WE ARE.
WE EATING OR AREN'T WE?
THIS? I WOULDN'T FEED THIS TO A BANTHA.
ON SECOND THOUGHT, I THINK I'LL JUST TAKE MY CUT AND GO.
I KINDA THOUGHT YOU MIGHT SAY THAT.
DON'T EVER CHANGE, CAPTAIN STARROS.

YOU CAN CHANGE ANYTIME YOU LIKE, LANDO CALRISSIAN.
I'M STILL THE SAME GIRL THAT GREW UP DOWN THE STREET IN WORMSTEW TOWN.
HE GONE?
SURE THING, CAPTAIN.
YEAH. THROW THIS BACK IN THE GARBAGE AND BRING ME SOME REAL FOOD, GRU.
I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT GIRL. I'LL NEVER CHANGE.
GOOD TO HAVE YOU *HOME* AGAIN.
I AM A SCOUNDREL.
I AM A SMUGGLER, THROUGH AND THROUGH.
YOU HEAR ABOUT THE HOSPITAL OVER IN WORMSTEW TOWN?
YEAH, I HEARD SOMEBODY LEFT A DOZEN SACKS OF CREDITS ON THEIR DOORSTEP. GUESS THEY WON'T HAVE TO CLOSE AFTER ALL.
HA. AND YOU *BELIEVED* THAT?
BUT EVEN A SCOUNDREL NEEDS A CODE.
WE DON'T GET *HEROES* OUT IN THESE PARTS, YOU LASERBRAINS. *SCOUNDRELS*, SURE. BUT HEROES...?
NAH, THEM I AIN'T NEVER SEEN.
AND SMUGGLERS ARE ONLY AS GOOD AS THE THING THEY'RE *SMUGGLING*.
AND FOR ME, THESE DAYS, THAT JUST MIGHT BE SOMETHING NEW. SOMETHING I HEAR THEY CALL...

...HOPE.
I ASSUME YOU'VE BEEN IN THIS SORT OF SITUATION BEFORE, CAPTAIN?
WELL...
...YES AND NO.
JUST SHUT UP, GRAKKUS!
THEN PERHAPS I COULD BE OF MORE--
STUPID HUTT. WHY'D IT HAVE TO BE ANOTHER HUTT?